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THE TEMPLE

We often find reference to the Temple and the Holy of Holies in Scripture readings. This month we find that the Mother of God was escorted into the Holy of Holies when she was presented by her parents in fulfillment of a promise which they had made to God.

What are the Temple and the Holy of Holies?

The building, including the foyer, was divided into six separate areas or courts, one rising higher than the other. First, there was The Court of the Gentiles. This was the only part a non-Jew was allowed to enter. It was situated on the lowest level outside the sacred precincts.

Second, there was the Sacred Enclosure. This was elevated three feet above the Court of the Gentiles. Non-Jews were forbidden to pass through under the penalty of death.

Third, there was the Court of Women. This was sometimes referred to as the treasury. This was elevated three feet above the second, making it six feet above the Court of the Gentiles. Jewish women were allowed to come this far and no further.

Fourth, there was the Court of Israel. This was ten feet higher than the Court of Women and sixteen feet higher than the Court of the Gentiles.

Fifth, there was the Court of the Priests, which was reserved for priests only. It was built three feet above the Court of Israel and nineteen feet above the Court of the Gentiles.

Sixth and lastly was the House of God. This was eight feet above the Court of the Priesta, which made it rise twenty-seven feet above the Court of the Gentiles.

The House of God, about which we find reference in the Holy Bible, was divided into two parts: the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies (which is sometimes called the Most Holy Place).

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This church in Ekaterinburg, Russia was consecrated in September. It has been built on the spot where Czar Nicholas II and his family were shot to death by the Bolsheviks 85 years ago. It was built at a cost of more than a million dollars, donated mostly by large companies.

Over 1000 pilgrims came for the consecration in Ekaterinburg in the Ural Mountains about 900 miles east of Moscow. Some traveled hundreds of miles on foot. They were housed in a tent city, which had been set up in a nearby field.

Many members of the Romanov descendents arrived from around the world. Among other notables attending was musician Mstislav Rostropovich.

Metropolitan Yuvenaly said that the consecration of the church on the spot where the last Czar and family had been killed bore "a meaning of repentance, a reconciliation and the unity of Russia and the Russian Orthodox Church."

At the main entrance to the church, there stands a sculpture depicting the last minutes of the Romanov's lives. It shows Czar Nicholas clutching his son Alexis to his chest. He is surrounded by his family.

ST. PHILIP'S FAST (PHILOPOVKA)

Among the saints commemorated on November 14/27 are Apostle Philip, St. Gregory Palamas, and SS. Justinian and Theodora.

Although Apostle Philip was the third disciple to join Jesus and this after a simple request "Follow me" (Jn 1:43), he had difficulty understanding Jesus' mission. We see this when after Jesus was finished teaching a crowd of 5000, Philip questioned how He would feed them (John 6:7). He did not understand the power that Jesus had to perform miracles. He manifested this again when following the withdrawing of Judas Iscariot at the Last Supper, he asked Jesus: "Lord, show us the Father and we shall be satisfied" (John 14:8,9). However, after Pentecost, Philip was an active missionary. He performed many miracles and did much teaching. He established the Church in Syria. He was crucified in Hierapolis and his relics were placed in the Church of the Apostles in Rome.

St. Gregory Palamas is also commemorated on the second Sunday of Great Lent. He spent most of his life on Mount Athos. While there, he reached a high stage of learning. He used this education to write many papers, books on heresies and various aspects of the spiritual life. He died in 1360.

SS. Justinian and Theodora were husband and wife. He was a Roman Emperor. Among his accomplishments, he built the St. Sophia Church in Constantinople, and many other churches here and in and around Ravenna, Italy. He also built and supported many hospitals. He called the Fifth Ecumenical Council in 553 because of a festering problem with the Monastists, who were teaching that Christ had only a divine nature. The hymn, which we use as the second antiphon at each Divine Liturgy, was written to affirm that Christ was both man and God.

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NEWS CHRONOLOGY

NOVEMBER 2003

This copy was mailed around October 18.

DIED: Pani Susan Skasko, widow of Fr. Stephen Skasko, in Kingwood, TX. She was the first pani in the Carpatho-Russian Diocese, as her husband was the first priest ordained for the Diocese.

SCOBA ISSUED A STATEMENT on the moral crisis in our nation. Writing that they were "deeply concerned about recent developments regarding 'same sex unions.'" It further states that it "holds that marriage consists in the conjugal union of a man and a woman. ... The Orthodox Church cannot and will not bless same-sex unions."

MEETING ON OCTOBER 6, the Mid-West Diocesan Assembly was to discuss the raising of assessments to $156 per person to cover the needs of the OCA and Diocese.

SIGNING A LETTER URGING the U.S. Catholic bishops to allow married men to be ordained for the diocesan priesthood were more than 160 of the 442 priests, active and retired, in the Roman Catholic Milwaukee Archdiocese.

THE FOUNDATION HAS BEEN BLESSED for the first church to be built in Northern Korea in 50 years. The project is being financed and implemented by North Korea. The Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church in Pyongyang will combine architectural features of Russian Orthodox churches with that of Korean architecture. There had been a Russian religious mission in Seoul in 1900, which included a school, a hospice, and an orphanage. It was closed in 1953 when the Korean nation was divided into two parts.

MUCH LIKE OUR 911, Moscow has 02 which is dialed for emergency police. To make it easier for foreigners to report crimes, when 02 is dialed, an operator will answer in Russian, but if the person says something in English, the call will automatically be forwarded to an English-speaking operator.

A FRATERNAL ENCOUNTER was held on July 11 at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Center in Bound Brook, NJ, at which Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholics met to discuss ecclesiastical and community issues.

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE has released a new calendar of events. Among them are an Orthodox Institute for Church School Workers (Nov. 6-9), College Conference (Dec. 27-31), Byzantine Chanting (Mar. 11-14, 2004) in Pysanky Egg Workshop (Mar. 11-14, 2004). For info call 724-238-3677 or email: AV center@antiochian.org.

THE MYTHS OF ST. PETERSBURG is an exhibit of 55 objects at the Hillwood Museum in Washington, DC through December 31. Reservations needed. Call 202-686-5807 or www.hillwoodmuseum.org. Florida International Museum in St. Petersburg, FL has 250 objects on exhibit. Call 727-822-3693.

THOSE INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY, especially if their ancestors came from the Carpathian area, might find The New Rusyn Times, May-June 2003 of help. Contact Carpatho-Rusyn Society, 125 Westland Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 or call 412-749-9899. The Pittsburgh chapter of the Society is sponsoring a conference on Nov. 1 at the Heinz Regional History Center, 1212 Smallman St. in Pittsburgh. Contact John Righetti at 412-749-0675.

A NATURE PARK in Rahway, Union County, NJ has been dedicated to Michael Bezega, a member of St. John's Parish who was killed in Vietnam. The park consists of 4.5 acres of land which abuts the property of St. John's Parish. It now has over 10,000 plants, bushes and trees that create a tidal wetland, which includes a meadow, several ponds and an elevated walking path. The church played an important part in the building of the refuge, offering the parish facilities and people power to the NY/NJ Bay Keepers and the Rahway River Association, who facilitated the design and construction. John Shipley was instrumental in inaugurating the project. Fr. Andrew Fetchina blessed the land. Fr. Basil Stroyen, who was an Air Force chaplain accompanying the deceased from Vietnam, mourned Michael, who was his altar server.

ELDERCARE LOCATOR is a service backed by the federal and state governments which will help you find what facilities are available for you or a parent or relative in the area where they live. There are over 600 area aging agencies and their services vary. Call 800-677-1116 or www.eldercare.gov for information.

APPEARING AGAIN IN WINDOWS are the Blue or Gold Star Banners, which signify that a member of the family is serving in the Armed Forces. The red-bordered banner with a blue or gold star in a field of white was displayed in many windows during World War II. Last year, the American Legion again made them available and many of the posts have distributed them. For info on obtaining a service banner for $6.95, call toll-free 888/453-4466 or order online at www.emblem.legion.org

WHAT DID THE ORTHODOX DO in Canada and China about receiving Holy Communion during the SARS scare? In Canada, Bishop Seraphim wrote an article in The Canadian Messenger giving very clear and thorough instructions. In China, we were informed that because of the large crowd of people attending the Pascha services in Beijing, they were held in the open in the town square.

THE CHRISTIAN ACTIVIST, edited by Frank Schaeffer, is again available on the internet. The address is thechristianactivist.com

(Continued from front page)

THE TEMPLE

Entrance to the House of God was restricted. Only priests were allowed to enter the Holy Place and only the high priests were allowed to enter the Holy of Holies and then only at stated times and for a specific purpose. Into the Holy Place, the priests entered to perform stated duties and at stated times; while in the Holy of Holies, only the high priest might enter and only once a year on the Day of Atonement, to make amends for the sins of the people. This gives us an explanation on why it was such a startling event to see the high priest lead a woman child into the Holy of Holies on a forbidden day!

(Continued from front page)

ST. PHILIP'S FAST

"Only begotten Son and Immortal Word of God Who for our salvation willed to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary. Who, without change, became man and was crucified. Who is one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit; O Christ, our God, trampling down death by death, save us!" St. Theodora died in 548, St. Justinian in 565.

After studying these saints we wonder why St. Philip was chosen as the one for whom the Fast was named. The answer can be found in an ancient legend in the book <u>About the Three Forty Day Fasts</u>, which was written by Patriarch Anastasios I of Antioch and Sinai (561-572). In the book we read that Apostle Philip, before he was martyred, had a moment of weakness and asked God to punish those who were torturing him. For this, it was revealed to him that for forty days after his death he would not be permitted to enter Paradise. He then understood that he had done wrong and he asked the other Apostles to fast and pray for him during those forty days. The Apostles not only fulfilled his request, but they instructed all Christians to do the same. This, according to the legend, gave this fast its name, St. Philip's Fast or Philipovka.

* * * * * *

Worship on Sunday morning should begin on Saturday night.

(Continued from page 55)

KITCHEN RECIPE

1/2 cup sugar
1 egg, separated
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1/2 tsp. almond extract
1 Tbls. milk
1/2 cup sliced almonds
Preheat oven to 400°. Sift flour, salt and sugar into mixing bowl and make a well in the center. Separate eggs. Reserve 2 tsp. of egg white for coating cookies. Mix the rest with the egg yolk, sour cream, vanilla, almond extracts and milk. Add to well in dry ingredients. Mix to form a soft dough. On a lightly floured board surface, roll out dough to 1/3 inch thickness. Cut out 3 inch rounds. Transfer to lightly greased cookie sheet. Brush with reserved egg whites which have been lightly beaten with fork. Sprinkle with sliced almonds. Bake for 10 minutes until light golden brown. Transfer to wire rack to cool.
NOTES: 2 cups all-purpose flour, mixed with 3 tsp. baking powder and 1/2 tsp. salt can be substituted for self-rising flour. Can be decorated with orange and brown M & M's for Thanksgiving and red and green ones for Christmas, if desired.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

We may well wonder when we pray the Lord's Prayer why should God lead me into temptation? He should lead me out of temptation. To better understand this, we should read Romans 7:18,19,24 together with James 1:13,14,17.

In Romans, St. Paul tells us that nothing good lives in him and he can't do what is right but what is evil. He can't stop doing evil and he asks who should deliver him.

James, meanwhile, tells us that God does not lead us into temptation, but that every good thing comes from above.

When we pray the prayer, we do not ask God to refrain from leading us but we ask Him to rescue us from ourselves. Jesus' teaching here shows us that He understands what it is to be human. He understood that we want to do what is right – but we also want to do what is wrong. He reminds us to make this conflict a matter for prayer, just as He tells us in other parts of the Lord's Prayer to offer praise and bring to God our concerns about our daily needs.

In teaching His followers to pray about their struggles, Jesus showed that God wants us to ask for help in the areas where we struggle and sometimes fall. The same God who supplies our "daily bread" offers strength to change direction when we go where we know in our hearts we shouldn't.

In every instance of temptation we come to a moment of choice. It is up to us to decide whether we choose good or evil.

FUNDS

<u>POSTAGE</u>: Mary Choback, Mary Superata, Olga Chernik, James McJilton, Marian Barber, John and Ann Warhol, Anonymous, Christine Hazzard, Raymond Rusnak, Elizabeth Mitrook, Olga Komenko, Margaret Chervenka, Frank Moroz, Veronica Melnick, Andy Tus in memory of wife Irene, who would have had a birthday in October.,
<u>ALASKA</u>: Zenia Zlotnick, Ethel Watlock
<u>MISSION AND ALASKA</u>: Raymond Rusnak, Anonymous, Frank Moroz

HOW WELL DO YOU COMMUNICATE?

A judge was interviewing a woman regarding her pending divorce. He asked, "What are the grounds for your divorce?"

She replied, "About four acres, a little home in the middle of the property with a stream running by."

"No," he said, "I mean what is the foundation of this case?"

"It is made of concrete, brick and mortar," she replied.

"I mean," he continued, "What are your relations like?"

"I have an aunt and uncle living here in town, and so do my husband's parents."

He said in frustration, "Do you have a real grudge?"

"No," she replied, "we have a two-car carport and have never really needed one."

"Please," he tried again, "is there any infidelity in your marriage?"

"Yes, both my son and daughter have stereo sets. We don't necessarily like the music, but the answer to your question is 'yes.'"

"Ma'am, does your husband ever beat you up?"

"Yes," she replied, "about twice a week he gets up earlier than I do."

Finally, in total frustration, the judge asked, "Lady, why do you want a divorce?"

"Oh, I don't want a divorce," she replied. "I've never wanted a divorce. My husband does. He said he can't communicate with me!"

MISSION TEAM KODIAK, ALASKA
Part 2

Although I enjoy traveling, I often find getting to my destination rather stressful. Delays, lost luggage, and missed flights, not to mention the threat of terrorism can leave any traveler unnerved. During my twelve-hour trip from Cleveland to Kodiak, I experienced a number of inconveniences – and that's all they were. It was easy to put things into perspective when I thought of those first Russian missionaries who traveled a year just to reach Alaska.

Have you ever gone somewhere and it felt like you had come home? That is exactly how I felt when I arrived in Kodiak. Imagine being greeted by breath-taking scenery, Orthodox priests and laity, and a big, white school bus with the words "Christ Is Risen!" boldly printed on the sides. What a warm welcome to Orthodox Alaska! Six of us soon-to-be-missionaries were among the first to arrive, and we were promptly shuttled to St. Herman's Seminary, which would become our home base for the next few days.

Upon our arrival, we learned that we would be sharing the seminary's living quarters with a team of two dozen Orthodox adults and teens from Colorado, who had come for two weeks to help with some much needed repairs. Sleeping bags were unrolled from the library to the refectory and places in between as approximately fifty laborers for our Lord Jesus Christ converged on the seminary.

That first weekend of August, Orthodox Christians from three jurisdictions – Greek, Antiochian, and OCA – assembled to form three teams that would provide instruction, support, and encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Alaska. For two days we gathered together to pray, share meals, and learn about the culture and Orthodox Church in Alaska.

Our three teams met separately for the work ahead. Some of us who were teachers had sent project supplies to the seminary several weeks before. Now arts and crafts and books were organized and packed. Lessons were discussed and fine-tuned. In the villages that we would be visiting, we would be presenting their very first Orthodox Vacation Church School Programs – and we wanted to do our best.

On the morning of our departure, His Grace, Bishop Nikolai commissioned us all as missionaries. The work that we had been preparing for all these months would now begin.

We said our good-byes to the members of the other two teams who were traveling north by bush plane, one group going to Russian Mission on the Yukon River and the other to Dillingham. Days before we had met as strangers; now we were true brothers and sisters in Christ diligently praying for one another.

As our team was doing last minute packing before we were to travel by boat to Ouzinkie, we heard some interesting news: our team had acquired a new member. Puzzled, we asked for specifics and were given the story. As the other two teams were boarding to fly into the interior, it was discovered that each group had too much weight. Extra clothing and supplies had to be left behind – and for one of the groups, a team member. But their loss became our blessing. God knew where this young man belonged.

Our group was an interesting blend of people who left behind families and jobs to do the Lord's work: two priests, a matushka, two seminarians, educators, a nurse, a retiree, and a company executive. We were "cradle" Orthodox and converts who were from the Greek, Antiochian, and OCA jurisdictions. We were experienced missionaries and novices (like me) who came to Alaska from New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio, Illinois, California, and Uganda. We brought all we were and had to give, our love of God, and desire to serve.

As we boarded the skiff for Ouzinkie that afternoon, I was once again struck by the beauty of nature that surrounded us. But I was soon to discover that the true beauty of Alaska lies in its people.

Next month – Missionary and Pilgrim.

Margaret Pysarchyk

* * * * * *

When we recognize how much we need God, He will strengthen us. That's the advantage of weakness.

OBSERVANCE DIFFERS

At one time Orthodox Christians were attuned to the Church Calendar. Their life revolved around the fasts and feasts of the year. For example, if asked their birth dates, they would reply, I was born two days beyond Pokrov or some other day. They knew that the fasting days of the Nativity Fast was soon to begin because they had just honored Archangel Michael and All Heavenly Hosts. Now we don't keep track of the passage of time the same way. We give a specific date for our day of birth. We have but to look at the Church Calendar, which is distributed by our parish church, to note the Holy Days. When we look at the November listings, we find that the Nativity Fast starts on November 15/28.

We don't need a calendar to know that Christmas is coming because the malls have been decorated since September. Our mailboxes have been full of catalogs for months urging us to order things for Christmas. Perhaps, we should consider them our modern harbingers.

Why do we have the Nativity Fast? It is in response to the Scriptural reading in Matthew 3:2-3 where St. John the Baptist said: "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand ... Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." The Church starts preparing us when we hear the Matins for the Entry of the Mother of God on November 21/Dec. 4 the following: Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ has come from the heavens, receive Him. Christ is on earth, elevate Him. Sing to the Lord, all the earth; and you nations praise Him with joy; for He has been glorified."

Several references are also made at the services for that beloved Saint Nicholas (December 6/19). "...O shepherds watch and bear witness to the awesome wonder. And, O Magi bring to the King gold, frankincense and myrrh for the Lord has appeared..."

The two Sundays before the Nativity also are dedicated to the Coming of Christ.

Do we prepare? Some of us forget the admonition of St. John and all the warning about repentance. We don't even acknowledge in any way that there is a time of preparation – a time for quiet, meditation, fasting and prayer. We have completely selected to follow the secular way of preparation – busy, gifts, parties.

BIBLE QUIZ
WHO SAID?

1. My punishment is greater than I can bear.
2. He must increase, but I must decrease.
3. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus, whom you have crucified, both Lord and Christ.
4. Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?
5. Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursed is withered away.
6. Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.
7. Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

ANSWERS:
1. Cain (Genesis 4:13)
2. John the Baptist (John 3:30)
3. Peter (Acts 2:36)
4. Miriam (Exodus 2:7)
5. Peter (Mark 11:21)
6. Peter (Acts 2:38)
7. Stephen (Acts 7:56)

ST. PETER OF ALEXANDRIA

St. Peter was a teacher at Origen's famous school of philosophy. He was consecrated a bishop in 299 and governed the church in a very difficult time when unbelievers were attacking the faithful from outside the church and heretics from within. There was such turmoil that 670 Christians were martyred, among them were whole families. Among the heretics was Arius, who was teaching in the church, that Christ was subordinate to God the Father. St. Peter drove him from the church.

It is said of St. Peter that he never sat on the patriarchal throne but on the steps leading up to it. Many people disapproved of this. When confronted, he said: "Whenever I come up to the throne, I see a heavenly light upon it, and so I do not dare to go up and sit on it."

St. Peter was put into prison, and while there Arius sent him word that he had repented of his heresy and had rejected his errors and asked to be received back into the church. Arius had ulterior motives. He expected St. Peter to be killed and that he would inherit the patriarchal throne in his place. This would give him the opportunity to spread and confirm his heresy.

Before giving Arius an answer, Peter prayed to God for guidance. While he was praying, a strange light illumined the prison and the Lord Jesus appeared to him in a vision as a twelve-year-old boy, in light more resplendent than the sun. It was so brilliant that He could not be gazed upon. He was clad in a white garment that was torn from neck to hem. Seeing this, St. Peter was horrified and he cried out: "My Saviour, who has torn Thy garment?" The Lord replied, "That madman Arius. He has torn it, because he is turning My people from Me. The people who I bought with My blood. Be careful not to receive him into communion with the Church for his thoughts are evil and devilish about Me and My people."

Hearing this, St. Peter instructed his priests Achilles and Alexander not to grant Arius' request because he was lying and was evil. St. Peter placed an anathema on Arius both in this world and in the next.

St. Peter also prophesized that first Achilles and then Alexander would follow him as Patriarch. This happened.

St. Peter died a martyr by the grave of Apostle Mark in the year 311. He is commemorated on Nov. 5/Dec. 8.

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Dorohaya Tyotya Maria,

Yak tam kolo vas? Toot not so hot. Shitke my-youth colds again. I guess toh yeh season nah toh. Remember zhe yah vam peesala za me next door neighbor, tohtah shto dumah zhe ohna taka special? Well me maleeh takee incident last week. Yeh husband dostal cold, chu flu. Ohn takee hvoree but ohn neh let her call or take him doh doctorah boh ohn kazheh zhe ohn mah takee dumkey zhe first step go to doctor, then doctor send you to hospital, then you get sicker, then you die, then undertaker take you back home. Ohnan yehmyu kazhe zhe ohn hysterical. Ohn yeh kazheh zhe his mother told him and she can; can't be wrong. Neighbor decided zhe he's too sick to argue with.

Anyway, ohnah neh znah what to do, boh ohn tak yoyka-yeh ee yoyka-yeh. Ohna meneh hna finally calluyeh nah telephone boh ohna taka desperate ee neh znah what to do. Ohna kazhe me: "Anne can you help me? I'm desperate. My husband is driving me crazy. You people seem to have so many home remedies. Can you help my husband? You can use anything but your famous garlic cure."

Yah bulla taka nice, yak me mamma taught me. Though yah seeing red kolee ohna kazhe me "you people." Noh yah decided yah peedo doh neighbora eeh budyu treatovatee yeh husband yak nashee treatovalee colds.

Yah peeshla tam doh next door neighbor housoo with torbah filled with "you people" remedies. First, yah pomazala yeho throat eeh hrudee with vicks. Then yah poklala piece old flannel nah top. Then yah dala yehmyu nose drops. Yah plugged in me vaporizer boh bulloh tak dry oo houseye. Then yah fixovala yehmuh hot tea ee blackberry venoh that yah robeelah last summer. Yah tak talking nice eeh soothing, yah pulled down the shades eeh yemuh saying that ohn budeh sweat not to worry and then ohn budeh feeling better.

Yah peeshlah domu. Later me husband called me to come over. Yeh husband ohn looked like new man.

Yah guess zhe me next door neighbor znah zhe "you people" know a lot only ohnah can't admit it.

If only I had goose grease,
Hanya

THE GOSPELS

The first books of the New Testament scriptures are the four gospels written by Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The word "gospel" comes from the Greek word "evangelium" and means "Good News" or "Glad Tidings." They tell of the life of Jesus and His teachings. None of them is a biography as we would know one to be. They were not written merely to tell the story of Jesus but were written by His disciples after the Lord's Resurrection to bear witness to the fact that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the promised Messiah – Christ and Saviour of the world.

In the Orthodox Church, only the book of the four gospels is found on the altar table. This is testimony that the life of the Church is centered in Christ, the living fulfillment of the law and prophets.



WHERE ARE YOU?

Futurists predicted that once the congregations would become grayed, attendance for week-day services would increase; as now retired, they would have more time for church attendance and be more spiritually attuned. How wrong they were! For some unpredictable reasons, our seniors have cut back on observing the Holy Days. On November 21/December 4, we observe Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple. Where will they be?

This is one of the first events in the life of the Virgin Mary, which tradition passes on to us. We know that she was the much awaited and loved child of Joachim and Anna. They promised God that if He would give them a child, they would dedicate it to Him. We learn from the readings at the Vespers and Matins services that Anna, her mother told Mary to go to Him who gave you to me. "Before your conception, O pure Virgin, you were consecrated to God, and now after your birth you are offered as a gift to Him, in the fulfillment of our parents' promise."

We are further told that as she was being presented and was on the first step of the Temple, she suddenly broke away and scampered up the remaining fourteen steps with no help. The High Priest then led her by the hand into the Holy of Holies, a sacred place which he was only allowed to enter once a year.

"Let us, the assembly of believers, celebrate today ... and praise with worship the Maiden of God presented in the Temple who was chosen to be the abode of Christ, King of all. Come forth in solemn procession to honor her. Mothers cast off all sorrows and join the procession and praise her who has become the Mother of God and a joy to the world. Let all of us raise our voices with the angel hailing the one who is full of grace and who will forever intercede for our souls."

It is appropriate that with this day we start to sing the Nativity/Christmas hymn: "Christ is born..."

Our lives mirror in some ways that of the Mother of God. The first step of our own spiritual ascent takes place when our parents made arrangements for us to receive the sacred mystery of Baptism. We can then continue our spiritual ascent up the steps to the Holy of Holies. This is our choice. When we come to church and relive the Virgin Mary's visit to the Temple, we can feel the warmth in our hearts as the light of God shines upon us. Our souls receive sustenance and are strengthened as we hear the divine prayers. It is this reinvigoration of our souls which prepares us for our lives outside the church building. We can almost hear the Virgin Mary saying: "enter the church and do not hurry to leave." She summons children, and grownups alike, to come to the church where troubled souls are showered with love and mercy.

PRESS FUND

Helen Zak, Ethel Watlock, John Kozial, Mary Kinn, Joseph Bonchonsky, Nellie Balach, Tom Swift, Marian Barber, Daniel Holovach, Ann Dorozynski, Anonymous (2), Mary Kochmaruk, Laura Jones, Mary Ann Russian, Frank Moroz, Jewel Rhodes, Irene Allen, Raymond Rusnak, Mary Shaffchick, Linda Roe.

Emma Timora in memory of her husband, Fred, her parents, parents-in-law and Fr. Basil.

Arnold, Julie and Natalie Katko for health of Matushka Nina and in memory of Fr. Basil.

Dr. Victor Poletajev in memory of Fr. Basil.

Many thanks for your prayers and your help. Spasebo.

LIGHTER MOMENT

"So you're not bothered any more with relatives coming and staying?" asked Jim. "No," answered Tom with satisfaction. "I borrow money from the rich ones and lend it to the poor ones, and none of them come back."

Undique (from everywhere)

When we read in Matt 27:51 "And behold the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom..." it means that through the sacrifice of Jesus all barriers between God and penitent man were swept away. The way was open for all of us to have immediate access to God. The curtain behind the Royal Doors in the ikonastas symbolize this veil and is the reason it is drawn open during the Divine Liturgy.

People who get letters from Europe remark on how well the writers express themselves. They can use a whole paragraph discussing the weather while we, in our blunt, clipped way, may use one sentence for the same information. There is an analogy here with the prayers in the church. They were written, as a rule, by people from the middle east who had a "way with words." They use ardent expressions which can best be properly interpreted by a mature spiritual mind which is well versed in the Bible. "Since thou art sanctified, O Lady, bride of God, having proceeded after the birth to the Temple, to be brought up in the Holy of holies."

If you were quizzed on the Gospel and Epistle lessons read at the Divine Liturgy, how would you do?

An Orthodox Church is a kaleidoscope of color, form and light. Every painting, candle and stained glass window says something about God.

The Holy Day of Theophany (The Baptism of Christ), which we celebrate in January, has been celebrated much longer than His Nativity (Christmas).

In the early 1960s when St. John of San Francisco was blessing water at the Theophany, a dove flew into the church and hovered over the container of water while the tropar was being sung. "When Thou was baptized in the Jordan ... and the Spirit in the form of a dove..."

The Western Church focuses on atonement for Christ's dying, while the Eastern Orthodox Church focuses on His Resurrection.

The soul that journeys to God but does not shake off its cares and quiet its appetites is like one who drags a cart uphill.



Editor's Notes

For over fifty years, you have been receiving the Orthodox Herald around the first of the month. Unfortunately, since the reliable Kramers have had to give up doing the mailing, we have been running into difficulty with you receiving the "Herald" by the first. I appreciate the patience and concern of so many of you, and I assure you that I am doing all I can to remedy the situation. We do have a schedule which eight people in the chain of publishing receive and adhere to. But these past months there has been a "goof up." I have put a tracer on the mailing and have been told that one of them, the whole mailing, could have gone "to the Virgin Islands." Bear with me.

I have received many calls and correspondence from some who enjoyed the story about the old lady. They asked me not to send her their way. Others told me she has already come to their house and some men have told me about the old man that they have spotted in their homes. A bit of levity is good.

Betty Kovach, the kind person who puts the addresses into the computer, has been in the Ukraine visiting her relatives. I am awaiting her return to hear how the situation has changed since our last visit a few years ago. Hopefully, she will have some news that she will share with you.

I read a sentence recently which I have been thinking about. "Each generation must be taught good manners and morals." This is so true. For example: A person I know held a parastas on the anniversary of his wife's death, which had occurred only two years previously. He has three grown children, ages 40, 36, 32. They have teen-age children. None of them had come to pray for the soul of their mother and baba, who had been too good to them. If her children did not come, neither did the grandchildren. How are they to learn that it is a goodness to pray for those who have gone on before them? Will they pray for their parents? Certainly other examples can be given, such as fasting, praying, church attendance, following the teachings of the church. Truly each generation must be taught.

Give thanks everyday and add an extra one on Thanksgiving Day.

God Be With You,

Matushka Nina Stroyen

WINTER'S GRACE

In Matthew 18:3 Jesus tells us: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven." One aspect of our lives which we can change is our prayer life.

Children know that they have little control over anything. Helpless, they place themselves in God's hands. This humble attitude does not come as naturally to adults. We cling to the allusion that we can control things. When we enter into prayer, we have to give up control. We have to stop and recognize God's greatness and make the step toward the state of childlike helplessness before God. We have to leave behind our perception that we can control everything.

Children are so hopeful. They are not afraid to ask. They believe that God will provide and even when they don't get what they ask for, they keep asking. That doesn't mean they don't wonder about prayer that seems unanswered but they aren't ashamed to question. While praying in hope takes a childlike trust of placing ourselves in God's loving hands, having our requests "turned down" takes a child's willingness to accept what they can't understand and an adult's recognition that God's ways are not ours.

Children are constantly changing, with bodies and minds expanding in exciting new directions. Our physical growth may be over; but as we communicate in childlike prayer, our spirits will continue to develop in relationship to God who cares for all of us as His precious children.



I am in awe of those people who have their Christmas gifts and cards ready by the end of October and sometimes earlier. To help them I am including two recipes – one can be made for a gift and the other when a lighter dessert is wanted for Thanksgiving or for snacking while waiting for that turkey to come out of the oven.

Many of you have "jars" in the cellar which you no longer use because you don't can anymore. This is a nice way to use the wide mouth pint jars. This recipe will enable you to make an unusual gift which will be much appreciated.

CAKE IN A JAR

2/3 cup shortening
2 2/3 cups sugar
4 eggs
2 cups applesauce
3 1/3 cups flour
2/3 cup water
2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. ground cloves
1 tsp. cinnamon
2/3 cup nuts or raisins

Wash thoroughly 8 wide mouth pint jars. Let dry. Cream shortening and sugar. Beat in eggs, applesauce and water. Mix together dry ingredients. Sprinkle a little on raisins or nuts. Blend dry ingredients into egg mixture. Stir in nuts or raisins. Pour into well-greased jars. Fill half way. Bake in 325° oven for 45 minutes. Remove from oven and immediately screw on lids. Makes 7 or 8 jars.

For gift-giving, cut a 6 1/2 inch circle out of material. Place over the lid and tie with a bow. Keeps well.

Now, for the light dessert.

Lepeshki are an unusual cookie using the much-loved almond characteristic of Russian baking.

2 cups self-rising flour
pinch salt

(Continued on Page 51 Col. 2)

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GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS!

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VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day commemorates the signing of the armistice that ended World War I on Nov. 11, 1918. The war ended when Germany, bereft of manpower, supplies and food, signed an armistice agreement. The war's tolls were great. At least 10 million were dead, 6 million of them civilians. The wounded numbered 21 million.

How tragic war is. The carnage, the killing, the maiming for life, the emotional trauma and scars ... the grief of loved ones.

In 1919, Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 Armistice Day as a day of remembrance. That date became a federal holiday in 1938. In 1954, the name was changed by Congress to Veterans Day and expanded to honor all U.S. veterans.

On this day we remember all service men and women with much thanksgiving and grateful hearts. For as someone said:

It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.

LIGHTER MOMENT

A state trooper heard a brand new excuse when he stopped a motorist for speeding. "This highway is so dangerous," the driver said, "I was hurrying to get off of it."

Home Bible Reading Schedule

NOVEMBER 2003

1	2 Cor 1:8-11	**16**	**Gal 6:11-18**
2	**Gal 1:11-19**	17	1 Thess 1:1-5
3	Phil 4:10-23	18	1 Thess 1:6-10
4	Col 1:1-11	19	1 Thess 2:1-8
5	Col 1:18-23	20	1 Thess 2:9-14
6	Col 1:24-29	21	1 Thess 2:14-20
7	Col 2:1-7	22	2 Cor 8:1-5
8	2 Cor 3:12-18	**23**	**Eph 2:4-10**
9	**Gal 2:16-20**	24	1 Thess 2:20-3:8
10	Col 2:13-20	25	1 Thess 3:9-13
11	Col 2:20-3:3	26	1 Thess 4:1-12
12	Col 3:17-4:1	27	1 Thess 5:1-8
13	Col 4:2-9	28	1 Thess 5:9-28
14	Col 4:10-18	29	1 Cor 4:9-16
15	2 Cor 5:1-10	**30**	**Eph 2:14-22**

BIBLE STUDY

Many people divide their lives into compartments. Among them are work, hobbies, family life, leisure, business and religious. Unfortunately, religion is last. Little, if any, attempt is made to relate matters of faith to the everyday issues of life.

Some think that the spiritual part of their lives can be taken care of by church attendance or doing good. Then, they are free to run their businesses, choose their entertainment, or relate to people in whatever way pleases them. But Christianity cannot be confined to just one area of our lives. It should permeate the whole thing.

In our reading for November 4 from Colossians 1:1-11, when St. Paul prayed for the believers in Colosse, he asked God to fill them with "the knowledge of His will" (1:9). . He asked that they would know His will in every aspect of their experience – what they thought and what they did – so that they would live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way. (1:10)

Our relationship with Christ must affect all areas of life. There is no way we can live a life that is pleasing to God if we keep our faith limited to a religious section. "Give Christ the key to every room in your life."

THANKSGIVING

One of the first secular holidays our ancestors, who came to America, celebrated was Thanksgiving. They might not have had a turkey on the table, but a chicken from the coop outside the back door was just fine. They were so proud to observe "Turkey Day," as they called it. It gave them a feeling of belonging and proud to be a part of this great nation. Now that I have studied and visited their homelands, I can understand the thankfulness and sadness with which they acknowledged Thanksgiving Day.

I share a prayer written by Robert Louis Stevenson, which you might want to use this year as you celebrate this day.

A Family Prayer

Lord, behold our family here assembled. We thank you for this place in which we dwell, for the love that unites us, for the peace accorded us this day, for the hope with which we expect the morrow; for the health, the work, the food and the bright skies that make our lives delightful; for our friends in all parts of the earth. Amen.